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The ValleyStar

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Marine steps to a steady beat

■ **PRESIDENT:** Black Student Union president sheds life of youthful angst and becomes a visionary leader.

By SOTIVEAR SIM
STAR REPORTER

Richard Daley's grandfather used to tell him, "You have always been a great starter, but a terrible finisher."

Daley, as a young black kid growing up in Brooklyn, was lost. He needed focus and a new perspective on life. With little more than a high school diploma, he set off for the Marines. There he got the direction and discipline he desperately needed.

Now, as the president of the Black Student Union at Valley College, he is trying to instill those values that he got from his grandparents and the Marines to the students and faculty on campus.

From his grandparents he learned responsibility. From the Marines he learned to focus . "It taught me to start and complete a task," Daley said.

The Marines also opened his eyes to a whole new world outside of Brooklyn. "In the Marines you have no control on who you are placed with," Daley said. "You get into contact with people from all different cultures, backgrounds, and social classes. It gave me a whole new perspective on people."

Daley has grown up since his days of playing basketball in Brooklyn. Back then he was always a jock and just did the bare minimum required to be eligible to play ball. "I never had an 'A' before, until I got into Valley," Daley said.

SEE **BLACK , PAGE 4**

Spring Fever

Samantha Kuppig/Valley Star

With the sound of birds chirping and the sun shining brightly in the mid afternoon sky, students were drawn to Monarch Square to enjoy the first day of spring. Here some students take to the lawn for a friendly game of soccer.

Colleges, students to profit

■ **PROP A:** Valley will use Prop A funds to repair old building and build new ones.

By SOTIVEAR SIM
STAR REPORTER

For Valley College the days of buildings with leaky roofs, chipped or fading paint, falling ceiling tiles, dirty bathrooms, and poor lighting can be a thing of the past if Proposition A is passed during the April 10 election.

The passing of Prop A will give the nine colleges in the Los Angeles Community College District about 1.245 billion dollars for repair, and maintenance of its facilities and to build new buildings.

"It will be for construction, refurbishing, modernization of technology," said American Federation of Teachers chapter chair for Valley College, Joanne Waddell. "This is our chance to build a legacy for the future."

Valley plans to spend the money from this bond measure to construct the New Media Arts Center and a New Allied Health/Sciences Building, among other renovation plans.

For facilities alone, Valley is estimated to spend 165,000,000 dollars.

In a study by an independent agency, out of the nine colleges in the district Valley was given the lowest rating.

The money will be used to remove the bungalows and replace them with the health science building.

Each college will receive more than 100 million dollars for plumbing repairs, improved lighting, air conditioned classrooms, expanded science labs and libraries, technological upgrades and construction of new buildings.

"This is paid through property taxes," Waddell said. "If you are privileged enough to live in a 400,000 dollar home it will be about 60 dollars a year or five dollars a month."

"No money will go to salary," Waddell said. "All projects are already approved and there will be an oversight committee appointed, so we won't fall into the Belmont learning center trap."

The Belmont Learning center was a poorly planned construction of a new high school, which had to be abandoned after the area was deemed hazardous due to toxic chemicals in the soil, but not before millions were wasted in construction.

The Los Angeles Community College district educates more than 110,000 students a year, yet state funding for the community colleges is less than one-half of what California state Universities and one-third of what Universities of California receives for instruction related services per full time student.

If Proposition A passes it will be the largest endowment of funds to be granted to the district. The funds will be monitored closely through annual audits from an independent agency.

"They need to vote for their own interest," Waddell said. "Students will make the difference on this proposition."

The deadline to vote for the April 10 election is March 26.

"We will be able to educate and prepare our students for the 21st century," Waddell said.

Disabled students given equality

■ **AWARENESS:** Disabled students all are free to pursue their education with the services that are offered at Valley.

By CITLALI SOSA
STAR REPORTER

At Valley College, the work of programs such as Disabled Students Programs and Services, in addition to the perseverance of disabled students have combined to create an environment of accessible education.

The disabled students program offers a wide range of services that tailor to the needs of all types of disabled students. Disabled students themselves must develop strong networks and skills to maneuver through Valley to facilitate a valuable learning experience.

Historically, disabled students were divided between community college campuses based upon their particular disability. Valley was known as the site for physically disabled students and thus has an expansive and specifically designed Adapted Physical Education program.

Following Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations, community colleges revamped their programs to provide equal access is provided to all students, regardless of ability, at every college.

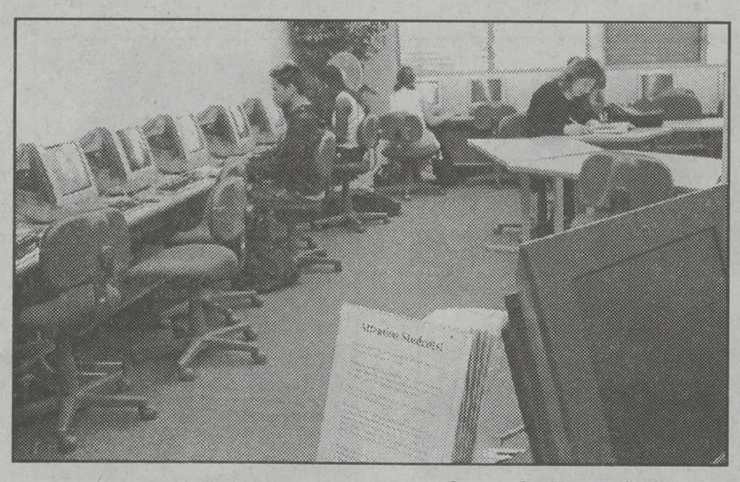
The program includes general assistance with basic campus orientation, hearing and speech services, visual services, and learning disability services. Additionally, with programs such as Adapted Physical Education, Valley and the disabled students program work to

SEE **AWARENESS , PAGE 4**

Computer usage limited

■ **TECHNOLOGY:** Valley boast of having several computer labs, but many are restricted and are plagued with other difficulties.

By ANDREA ZOLLMAN
STAR REPORTER



Samantha Kuppig/Valley Star

Students are taking advantage of the free access to computers offered in Humanities 102.

Most of the 17 computer laboratories at Valley College are only open to students enrolled in classes the department serves, according to a list of computer labs that was printed in the Spring 2001 semester class schedule.

Three of these 17 labs serve the entire student population, and snags, such as limited supplies and older equipment, have confounded some users.

"Supplies have been a problem," said Marie Brown, who instructs Cal Works students in the Lab for Academic and Instructional Learning, or the L.A.I.R. It is funded by the Cal Works Greater Access to Independence program, which is a welfare-to-work program.

"It's open to any and all students," said lab supervisor Paul Zuccaro. But the students who participate in the program have priority use of the computers. Open for two years, the lab offers Internet access. Students can print but must provide their own floppy disk. It also shares space with library science classes, with a total of 83 seats available. It is located near the Learning Center.

The Center for Computer Assisted Instruction and Vocational Education, also known as the C.C.A.I.V.E., provides computer access to all students as long as there are no engineering classes in progress.

Located in the Engineering Building, room 117, it's tucked away from the main foot traffic.

While there are only 25 computers available in the lab at the present time, Freeman said that they hope to have 40 new computers by the end of the semester.

"We're going through changes," he said. "We're still building the lab."

Students can print documents, but need to supply their own floppy disk . Freeman said the lab recently procured a new printer, and the older printer is being used a backup.

"There is no question in my mind that the availability of open labs should be improved,"said Jeff Kent, an instructor on the college's technology committee.

InsideStar

Salvador Aguilar/Valley Star

Page 6 Baseball

■ A Valley player slides safely into third just as the ball reaches the thirdbaseman. The Glendale Vaqueros squeaked by the Monarchs 3-2.

Page 2 Campus View

■ Did you know that you share about 99.9 % of your genetic code with a chimpanzee? Find out how some of students feel about this factiod.

EDITORIAL Abandoned embryos

There is a dilemma that doesn't often get addressed, and that is the fact that there are tens of thousands of unused spare embryos frozen in liquid nitrogen in various fertility clinics throughout the country with no word of what to do with them.

Because embryos are living cells that are in their early stage of development, they cannot be disposed of or sold; according to U.S. law, sales of embryos are just as illegal as baby-selling. There are, however, beneficial options that could be put into action.

There are an estimated 2 million couples on the waiting list for adoption, but perhaps the adoption of embryos would make a more meaningful alternative. For one thing, potential parents are free to raise their offspring from the early developmental stage.

Concerns have been raised about the unlikely possibility that siblings of the frozen embryo offspring would meet: a possibility that can be remedied by donating embryos to another part of the world. Couples in other parts of the world are just as eager to start their family, maybe programs such as Snowflake Embryo Adoption Program could consider a trading arrangement between couples from other countries.

Another option can be donating embryos for scientific research. There are numerous benefits that as of today have made a significant mark in the realm of medical science. For example, the use of embryonic membranes has proven satisfactory in the treatment of cancer, infertility and genetic diseases. The possibilities are plenty and there is still more to discover.

Currently clinics run ads to locate the parents of the frozen embryos that have been left with little or no instruction of what to do with them. Until then the embryos will remain in a state of limbo. Perhaps in the future people should consider what they want done with their offspring in their will. There have been custody battles, according to news sources, over these matters. Stating their wishes in a will ahead of time might save a lot of trouble.

The gift of life can come in many forms, be it adopting or donating embryos to science research. The final choice is for the donor to make; after all, it is their DNA waiting to be given the chance to serve a purpose rather than remain preserved in the freezer.

Cartoon by Rogelio Garcia

Viewpoints Another School Tragedy

By ROGELIO GARCIA
STAR REPORTER

Recently, a study conducted by a New York Times Review found that every 10 days a mass, random, public shooting occurs in the United States. These tragedies most always generate a grieving public who are tormented by violence and seek to find answers as to why and how such horrific deeds came to be. Quite often the perpetrators of these crimes are middle-class white males who, more often than not, are rejected or persecuted by their peers. These individuals usually fit the description of a young adult or teenager who are at some point pushed over the edge and seek to enact some sort of justice, usually through horrific acts of violence.

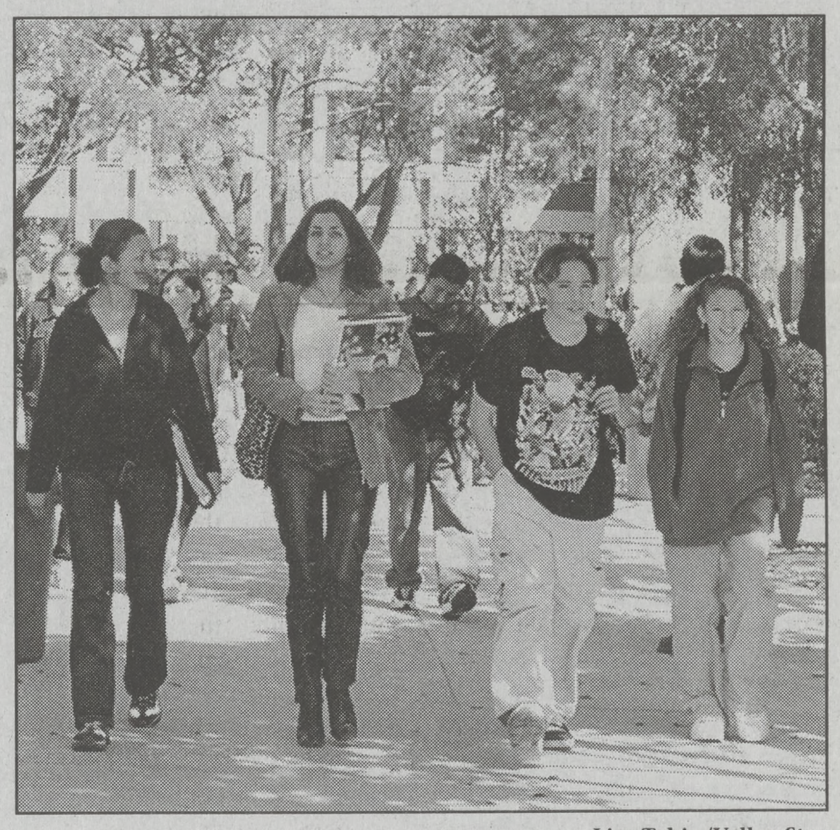
In recent years, it has been made apparent that this kind of violence is becoming an epidemic. This sociological belief has been recently tested with the school shooting at Santana High School in Santee, San Diego, last week. Much like other familiar incidents in the past, the media coverage of the incident became national, leading once again countless of questions to be asked and fingers to be pointed. Indeed, these tragedies should not go unheeded and the victims not forgotten, but are these incidents truly unique?

The news coverage of these school shootings seems to be a priority to the media, and even then the victims and perpetrators of the violence are white. These incidents, though sad, are not uncommon; the only thing uncommon is the news coverage. Very rarely are gun murders by black or Latinos students made national news. Recently, such incidents have occurred in Lynwood, Oxnard, and Pomona. The perpetrators: young teenagers who, much like their white peers in Santee or Columbine, were middle-class kids who were also the targets of ridicule.

Furthermore, rage killings by kids in schools did not just pop out of nowhere. Although many people claim school shootings never used to occur, they have a fairly long history that we have either forgotten or the media has just ignored. In 1974, an honor student shot and killed 3 wounded 9 in his high school in New York. In 1976, a college student at Cal State Fullerton murdered 7 other students after receiving a bad grade in a class. Even those that did receive national attention have escaped the memories of the masses, including the Stockton Massacre of 1989 where five children were killed, 29 wounded.

Despite these supposed violent trends in our schools, they are not common. Of the 150,000 murdered by gunfire in the U.S in the past decade, approximately 150 were school related, and even a smaller margin were white victims.

If, in reality, we want to find methods to prevent school shootings from occurring we must look at all the victims inflicted. We all bleed the same blood and shed the same tears; our kids are NOT different and deserve the same amount of attention. Perhaps, therein lies the problem, if we want to enact real change in our homes and in our society we must take a good long look at ourselves and pay close attention.



Lisa Tobin/Valley Star

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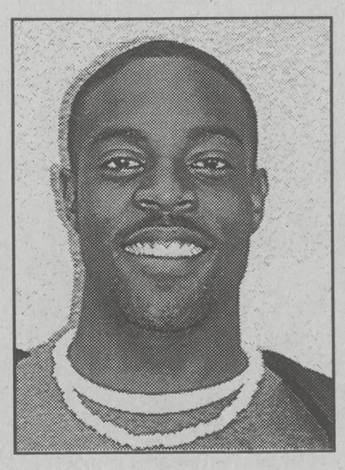
CampusView

How does it make you feel that you share 99.9% of your DNA with a chimp?

There is still a difference. We are not monkeys. We are not even their ancestors. We are in trouble if we are monkeys.

Helen Shirazi, 42
Psychology major



It makes me feel stupid--that's all I have to say.

Demetrus Patterson
Psychology major, 20

I didn't know, that's crazy! It's weird to be compared to monkeys. I'm so surprised. Whoa, monkeys huh?

Bylley Rivas, 18
Nursing

It's pretty cool. It brings evolution and religion togerther. For me it shows that God is so big and he does things that make you wonder.
Alfredo Murillo, 20
Chicano Studies major

Samantha Kuppig/Valley Star

Smalltalk

Kids behind desks

By Rogelio Garcia

There is an old saying that goes, " You give a gun to a chimp, the chimp shoots somebody you don't blame the chimp." This cliché, though dumb in some ways, strikes true on some of society's problems one of which is the conviction and incarceration of children for adult crimes. If a child decides to act out some violent morbid fascination like the ones that have occurred recently in a San Diego (school shooting) or in Florida (homicide) is it fair to hold the child responsible? If so, is it a valid punishment to pass down a judgement such as life imprisonment without the possibility of parole?

Recently, many states, including California, have passed laws to seek convictions for kids who perpetrate serious crimes. These laws, including California's Prop 21, are the wrong approach to a serious problem. How can sending kids to adult prisons rectify the problem of adolescent violence? The problem does not go away just by removing a bad seed from the bunch; society's woes cannot be heeled with a quick solution like life sentences for kids who make mistakes, no matter how horrible the circumstances.

If we continue down this road of irresponsibility we can be sure that violence among children will remain. The problem may even grow more rampant in our ever so violent society that allows for a 12-year-old child to suffer the agonies of an adult prison cell for the rest of their lives without ever reaching adulthood themselves. By allowing our children to be sent to prison we are essentially abandoning them. Is that the kind of people we have become? Has society reached the point that we are willing to cast away our young? If so, then it is no wonder our children are becoming killers.

Let's take a few moments to consider a few things. We are willing to convict a child for murder, yet we are not willing to prevent them from obtaining the gun they used to kill. We are willing to build more prisons to house our ever-growing criminal population, yet we are reluctant to build much needed new schools for our ever growing academically deprived youth. We are ready and willing to fund the cost of a prisoner for their entire life, yet we don't want to fund after school programs for troubled kids for a few years. O.K I am now officially ashamed.

Photo Illustration

Karla S. Gutierrez/Valley Star

Kids behind bars

By Sotivear Sim

A young boy who has yet to see what life has to offer will spend the rest of his days in a world of bars and cement walls for he was given a life sentence for the death of a little nine year old girl while performing wrestling maneuvers.

The jury after much deliberation felt that the boy was guilty and the judge deemed a life sentence worthy of his crime. Life sentences are a truly a rare scenario, but a trend that has increased steadily over the years. Some argue that it is immoral to put someone in prison at the tender age of 16 for a violent crime. They believe that we should try to avoid imprisoning these youths because it is not the solution.

There is no salvation for these individuals. If they have the ability to kill these young helpless children, as in this case, what safeguards are there to stop them from doing it again. There are none! All the counseling in the world is not going to reform these bad apples.

Life sentences are not thrown about freely. There is a lot of thought and consideration that is taken into account. This boy who killed the little girl claims that he didn't know the true consequences of wrestling that he viewed on television.

That's ridiculous. The girl died not of one single accident, but her frail little body was littered with broken bones and bruises. There is something terribly wrong with this individual's psychologically to say the least, if he continued to attack this girl who was a third of his size after she had sustained multiple injuries.

It's sad to say but it is the truth. There is no room in society for such monsters. The fact that they are minors should not even be a factor in the sentencing. A violent crime committed by minors should be treated as any other violent crime. Yes it is a harsh punishment to spend the majority of ones young life in a hell free from the joys of life, but it is the right punishment.

Viewpoints

How far is too far?

By E.N. ZACARIAS
STAR REPORTER

During the after school hours on a weekday in 1998, KCAL channel five cut away from it's usual programming of that hour—which were cartoons—to bring late breaking news of a desperate man who stopped his pick-up truck on the side of the freeway.

He then proceeded to burn his vehicle with gasoline, with his dog inside, and then kill himself with his rifle "live" on television.

Is tragedy a national obsession, or has it become one because the television media "force-fed" it to the viewing public?

This is certainly a question to think about since news sources tend to dwell considerably on the morbid deaths of public and not-so public figures in an attempt to entice viewers.

One must not forget that the news media is a business; there are ratings wars to be fought between the networks and the more sensational the subject matter, the more coverage it receives.

> "The First Amendment gives the media the right to speak its mind, but not to step over the rights of grieving famliy members."

The problem, however, is that the media clings to the subject—as in the case of deceased race car driver Dale Earnhardt—to the point of desensitizing the viewer toward violence. The news is constantly running footage of the crash that killed Earnhardt, but because of the continuous cycle in which it is shown, the effect becomes less unsettling.

Dehumanizing the viewer is certainly not the media's intended goal, but the viewing public is bombarded with graphic images the media insists the public should see on a daily basis. Yet how much of it is journalism and how much of it is for shock value? Where should ethical journalists draw the line?

As a celebrity that has been in the public eye, Earnhardt's death warrants coverage, but it's the amount of coverage and the manner in which it is presented that should be in question.

The First Amendment gives the media the right to speak its mind but not to step over the rights of grieving family members.

The media should know that there is a difference between going far enough and going too far and that the news is a medium the viewer relies on.

However, going too far for the sole purpose of winning the ratings war is a gross misuse of their power and the rights we as Americans cherish the most.

Morality is a private and costly luxury.

- Henry Brooks Adams

Viewpoints

Who will represent us?

By CITLALI SOSA
STAR REPORTER

As with any election, candidates must create an image of themselves that will reach as many people as they
can in order to rally a majority. After figuring out their base of support, candidates must then build on this support by reaching for the populations that have voted consistently in the past.

Unfortunately, only a small percentage of eligible voters actually cast their vote for local elections, such as the mayoral race and often, these voters are older and wealthier than the average Angeleno.

In a city such as Los Angeles, diverse and segregated in many ways, the candidate's quest for voters can often ignore the issues of the non-voting population. This longstanding problem has shown itself again in the upcoming mayoral race here in Los Angeles, with the primary slated for April 11, 2001.

In the upcoming mayoral election, the six major candidates are a diverse group and are seeking to advocate for different segments of the population.

For example, Jim Hahn has led the African-American vote, Kathleen Connell has openly courted the female vote, and Villaraigosa and Becerra lead the Latino vote.

For the most part, the candidates must walk a fine line between alienating their established constituents and seeking new ones. As the Los Angeles Times was quick to point out, the mayoral candidates are forced to prove to either the Westside or the Valley that they intend to give these areas proper
attention.

Subsequently, all of the six major candidates have managed to set up their main mayoral candidate headquarters in either the Westside or the Valley.

In trying to build their campaigns, the major mayoral candidates have attempted to address issues that will
resonate with the entire voting population but in so doing has often ignored the inequality within the city of Los Angeles.

In speaking about education, many of the candidates offered across the board remedies for LAUSD that did not address the existing inequalities in the schools or the lack of resources that exist to remedy the problem. For example, Connell has advocated for the addition of 60 charter schools for LAUSD without addressing the issue of the prevalence of charter schools in already wealthy and high-achieving areas.

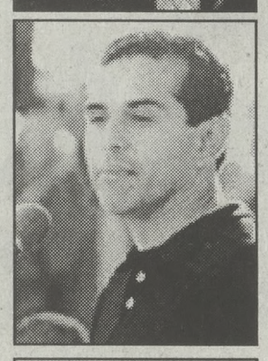
Recently, the major mayoral candidates have shown their disinterest in the issues facing the working poor of Los Angeles by their poor attendance at the Forum on the Working Poor. Only three of the six attended the forum, sponsored by a coalition of churches, labor unions, and community organizations which focused on workers' and immigrants' rights, affordable housing and access to health care.

Through their actions and ideas for Los Angeles, few of the major candidates have proven that they have
answers for the problems that face the entire city.

Whoever is elected mayor of our diverse and multi-faceted city must find a way to bring everyone together and to seek solutions for all.

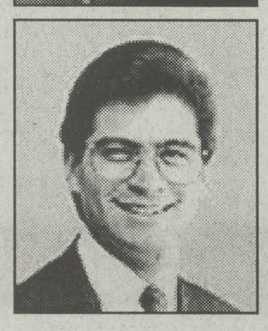
WACHS

CONNELLY

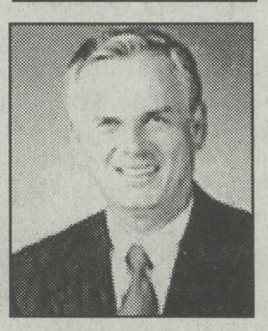


VILLAROSA

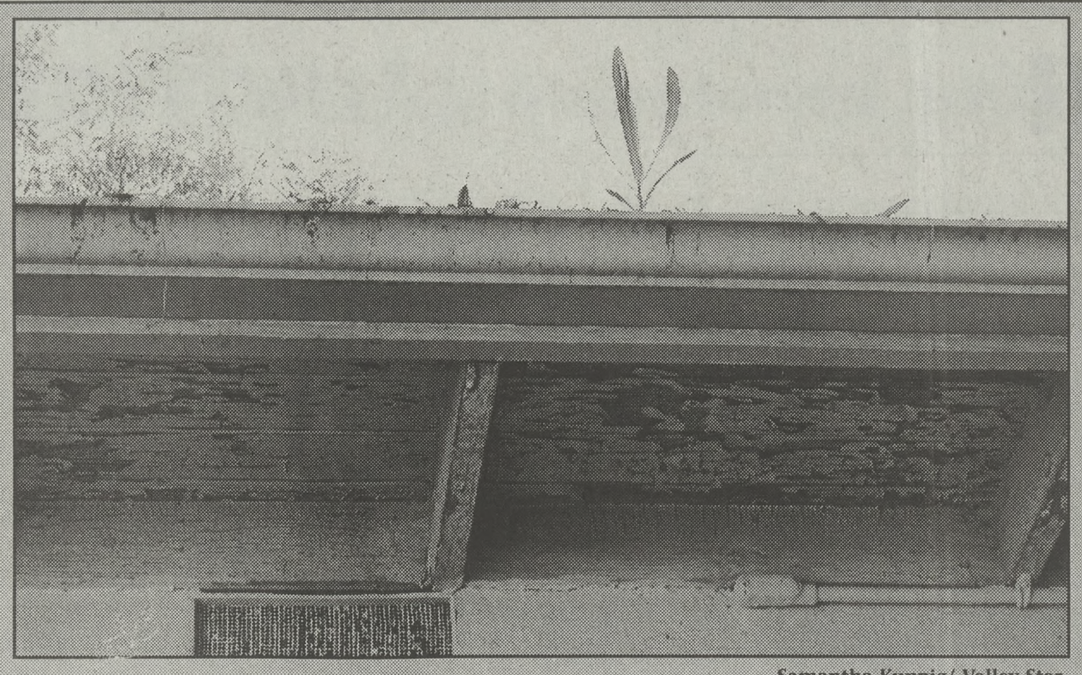
SOBORO



BECERRA



HAHN



Samantha Kuppig/ Valley Star

This plant has found a nice home to set down its roots in a rain gutter in one of the bungalows. Without funds for the continued maintenance of the campus, the gutters have accumulated dirt and debris over the years. But this weed doesn't mind.

Raising awareness

CONT'D FROM **PAGE ONE**

create individually tailored ways to help each student. Because the goal of the program is to encourage maximum independence and integration, many efforts are made to ensure the chance to participate in any campus activity.

Disabled students have also come together on campus to form an organization, Unlimited Students, to raise awareness on campus. While there have been come problems in the past, which have caused disabled students to raise complaints, most issues are being dealt with at Valley.

"Most classrooms are accessible," said student, Dondeie Rondina. "Teachers are more than accommodating." Additionally, Rondina claims disabled students must take a strong lead in forging their campus experience. "Public relations affects whether the campus is tailored to them as a disabled student," Rondina said. "It can depend on whether they make friends with students in their class and use a diplomatic approach."

> "Most classrooms are accessible."
>
> *Doneie Rondina*

While the works of disabled students, their program and the Adapted Physical Education program are working to create an empowering environment, general student body awareness about disabilities can always be raised further.

Learning and psychological disabilities are less recognizable than physical disabilities, and they can often go undetected, much to the hindrance of a student's growth.

With the combination of awareness, campus programs, and student efforts, Valley can hopefully continue to offer a positive learning environment for all its students.

Black Student Union

CONT'D FROM **PAGE ONE**

"Getting A's and B's was something I never dreamed of."

The new him can be seen out and about campus conversing with students from all walks of life. As the new president of the Black Student Union, Daley has big plans for change.

"I didn't like how I saw things going on here," Daley said. "I really have to take responsibility as a student here to improve the student's activities and the awareness of what they can do with their own school."

One of the problems that Daley sees on campus is that students are not taking the initiative to play an active role on campus. Student's are afraid of making mistakes; they feel that they will be scolded, he said. "I'm going to make mistakes," Daley said. "You are going to make mistakes no matter what you do. The question is can you rectify those mistakes."

On his agenda for Valley is an ambitious event called the Platform. It will be an event for clubs from different colleges to come together and unite. The event will be held off campus and will have entertainment and food. Daley feels so strongly about the Platform that he has invested much of his own money into the realization of this event. "It's the student's platform to show the faculty that the students can unite as a campus to do something constructive," he said. "Not as the Black Student Union or the psychology club, Filipino club, but as a campus."

"The purpose is to get people talking to each other and share ideas," he said. "This campus is very segregated in my opinion."

Whenever he meets someone new he tries to learn as much of their culture as he can.

> "I never had an 'A' before, until I got into Valley."
>
> *B.S.U. PRESIDENT RICHARD DALEY*

"I like to get involved in other cultures," Daley said. "I usually carry around in my bag seven or eight language books. If I want others to learn about my culture I should know something about theirs."

His goal is to breakdown the barriers in school and to unite the culturally diverse campus and get everyone involved in the school.

"The Black Student Union is not just for black people," Daley said. "It's for all people. This school is very rich in cultures, but yet I don't see those backgrounds coming together to make this a better school."

Daley cites the Armenian clubs cultural night where about 100 people attended, but other clubs on campus were not present to support them.

"I went to their function and learned a lot about their culture just by talking to them," said Daley. "They appreciated that I was supporting their function."

Daley said that's what the Black Student Union is all about, too, adding that they are just trying to teach people about who they are.

His Marine training has taught him how to finish whatever he starts. Daley is on his way to starting a new trend at Valley.

A very personal goal that he hopes to accomplish by next year if not this semester is a ASU teacher award show to be held off campus in conjunction with the Dean's reception.

"We as students want to show them that we appreciate them," Daley said. "They work under harsh conditions. They deserve to be honored."

ASU ELECTIONS

April 3 and 4

Your vote counts!

X

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New Health Science Building
New Library/learning Center
Modernized Classrooms

On April 10th
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Los Angeles College Guild
Local 1521

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Campus SCENE

Lion's den

The lion's den activity room has reopened its doors. It now features video games, pool tables, foozball, and a television. The lion's den is open on Mon. and Wed. from 4:30-9:30 and on Tues. and Thurs. from 11:30-5:30.

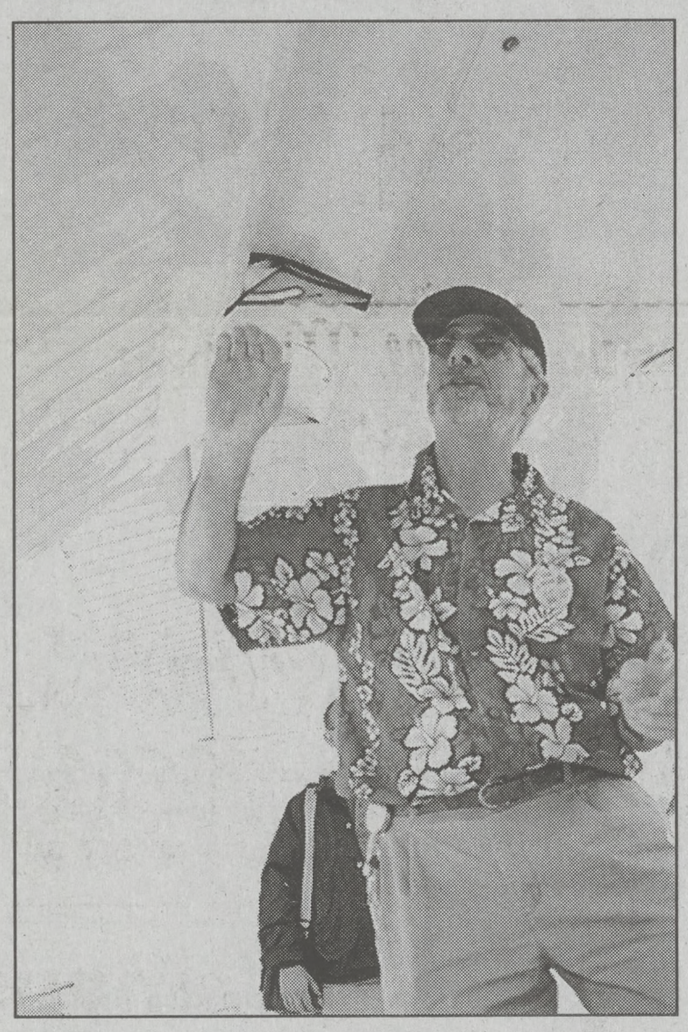
Health Fair

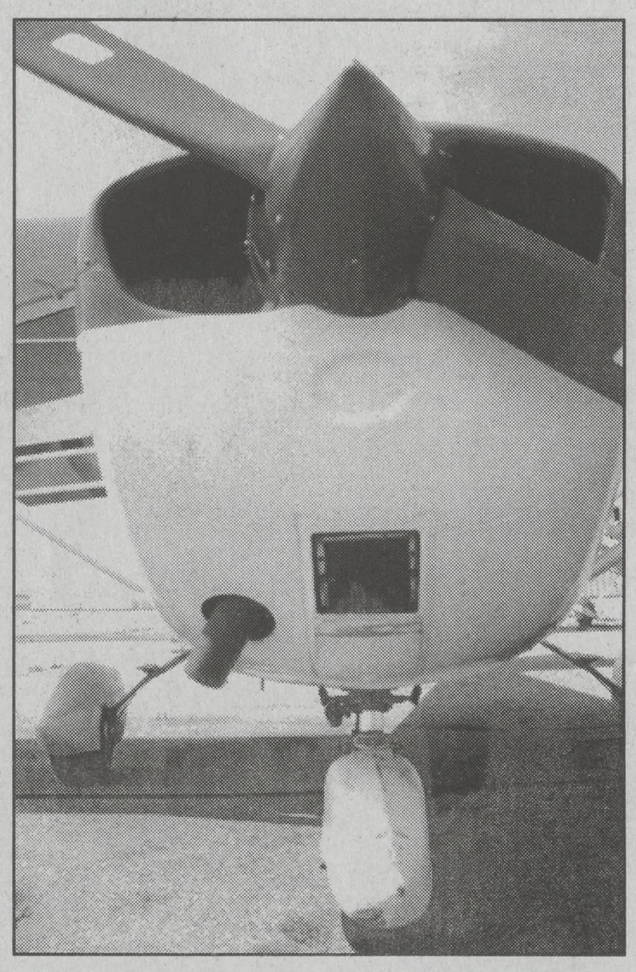
NBC4 will be sponsoring a health fair expo on March 28. The health fair expo will feature free screening, free hearing test, vision exams, and low cost labs.

Billy Reed

On March 23 Valley College faculty will come together to celebrate Dean Billy Reed retirement.

FlyingHigh





Professor of Geography and Oceanography Richard Raskoff is known for taking students on many field trips and enjoys taking adventurous students who want to fly. He has been flying since 1967 and has 4,000 flying hours. On March 15, on a sunny clear day, he flew three of his students thousands of feet above the ground for an opportunity of experiencing aerial photography. They flew over Pierce College to shoot photographs of the campus for the Vice President of Administration of Pierce College. Then they flew through Calabasas, the flight took about an hour. On future trips he promised to take his students over different areas including flying over Valley College. Raskoff flies in a Cessna 172 and it carries four people. It has a range of 60 miles, weighs 2,350 Lbs. and can fly up to 14,500 feet. This was a unique opportunity for the student to get a different perspective of the valley.

Karla S. Guttierrez/Valley Star

Attention,
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- ☆ *Bugsy*
- ☆ *The Color Purple*
- ☆ *Easy Rider*
- ☆ *Empire of the Sun*
- ☆ *Jurassic Park*
- ☆ *Mask*
- ☆ *Thirty Something*
- ☆ *Who Framed Roger Rabbit*

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
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COLLEGE OF EXTENDED LEARNING

Valley's player slides safely into third juat as the ball reaches the Glendale third baseman.The Vaqueros squeak by the Monarchs 3-2.

Salvador Aguilar/Valley Star

Monarch Athletics Upcoming Games and Meets

(Home games noted in bold)

Softball

March 22	**Glendale**	**2:30 p.m.**

Baseball

March 15	Glendale	2:00 p.m.
March 17	**Glendale**	**1:00 p.m.**
March 20	Bakersfield	2:00 p.m.
March 22	**Bakersfield**	**2:00 p.m.**

Men's and Women's Swimming

March 23	**Pierce**	**2:30 p.m.**

Track and Field

March 17	BC Relays	9:00 a.m.

The Question Marquis™

Ask the Question Marquis is a sporadically produced advice column, because proper loving takes time. It is to be read with a silly French accent. The views of the Question Marquis are his alone and are in no way to be construed as representative of his sponsor, Questia, you American pigs.

Ask the Question Marquis

Q: *Dear Question Marquis: How many times do I have to tell my roommate that just because he's stressed out, it's no excuse for his "accidentally" gnawing on my ankles? – Jeff in Seattle*

A: I am not interested in your problem right now. I am outraged. Do you know that I went to try to purchase a fanner today? What kind of world has this become when a marquis cannot cheaply acquire someone to fan him as he sleeps? And yet access to an extensive collection of digitized books and journal articles costs less than the price of two pizzas a month? It is making no sense. It is like a horse with two derrières.

Q: *Dear Question Marquis: I've got a paper due on Diderot's political influence. I figured, "The Question Marquis is from the French Enlightenment – maybe he could give me some insight." So…any scoop? – Karen in Santa Monica*

A: Yes. You are fortunate you asked. Diderot was an idiot. He had the political influence of my poodle's phlegm. Do you know, he had his Ds coming before his Cs in *l'Encyclopédie* before I straightened it out for him? If there were a French Enlightenment, you can be sure that Denis Diderot knew nothing about it. So you are best behooving to pick a new topic. Once you do, go to questia.com to search for an extensive collection of scholarly books and journal articles to reference in your paper. That should make up for some of the time you wasted thinking about Diderot. Time that you can use to improve the thoughts you will put into a new paper. So Questia will not only save you *beaucoup de* time, but it will also help you to write a better paper. And of course, my loyal readers (you feisty roustabouts, you!) will know that Questia also does your footnotes and bibliographies automatically, once you have finished your paper. You can part with a few francs for that, can you not?

"Diderot was an idiot. He had the political influence of my poodle's phlegm."

Q: *Dear Question Marquis: I haven't been feeling myself lately. I lash out at the people I care about, my cooking skills are slipping, and I'm often visited by the ghosts of vegetables I've eaten. I worry I might be losing my mind. – Nick in Houston*

A: It is a shame that losing one's mind must inspire fear. It is really not so bad. I myself lost my mind several decades ago. I highly recommend it, in fact. The day you want to lose it, just put it under your pillow before you go to sleep, and that night, the Mind Fairy will come along and take it, leaving behind anywhere from 50 to 3,000 francs, depending on the quality of the gray matter. I got over 1,800 for mine. Yours, being an American mind, will naturally not command such a high price. But still, something is better than nothing.

Questia is only $19.95* a month? The lint in my pocket is worth more than that!

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